

UTILITY PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL
(Small Entity)*(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))*Docket No.
ZAS-10204/03Total Pages in this Submission
26**TO THE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS**Box Patent Application
Washington, D.C. 20231

Transmitted herewith for filing under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) and 37 C.F.R. 1.53(b) is a new utility patent application invention entitled:

METHOD FOR VERIFYING THE INDENTITY OF A PASSENGER

and invented by:

Zaher Al-SheikhIf a **CONTINUATION APPLICATION**, check appropriate box and supply the requisite information:☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☒ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.: 09/106,099

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.:

Which is a:

☐ Continuation ☐ Divisional ☐ Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.:

Enclosed are:

Application Elements

1. ☒ Filing fee as calculated and transmitted as described below
2. ☒ Specification having 13 pages and including the following:
 - a. ☒ Descriptive Title of the Invention
 - b. ☒ Cross References to Related Applications *(if applicable)*
 - c. ☐ Statement Regarding Federally-sponsored Research/Development *(if applicable)*
 - d. ☐ Reference to Microfiche Appendix *(if applicable)*
 - e. ☒ Background of the Invention
 - f. ☒ Brief Summary of the Invention
 - g. ☒ Brief Description of the Drawings *(if drawings filed)*
 - h. ☒ Detailed Description
 - i. ☒ Claim(s) as Classified Below
 - j. ☒ Abstract of the Disclosure

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(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 CFR 1.53(b))

Docket No.
ZAS-10204/03

Total Pages in this Submission
26

Application Elements (Continued)

3. ☒ Drawing(s) (when necessary as prescribed by 35 USC 113)
- a. ☒ Formal b. ☐ Informal Number of Sheets 2
4. ☒ Oath or Declaration
- a. ☒ Newly executed (original or copy) ☐ Unexecuted
- b. ☐ Copy from a prior application (37 CFR 1.63(d)) (for continuation/divisional application only)
- c. ☒ With Power of Attorney ☐ Without Power of Attorney
- d. ☐ DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)
Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application,
see 37 C.F.R. 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).
5. ☐ Incorporation By Reference (usable if Box 4b is checked)
The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which a copy of the oath or declaration is supplied
under Box 4b, is considered as being part of the disclosure of the accompanying application and is hereby
incorporated by reference therein.
6. ☐ Computer Program in Microfiche
7. ☐ Genetic Sequence Submission (if applicable, all must be included)
- a. ☐ Paper Copy
- b. ☐ Computer Readable Copy
- c. ☐ Statement Verifying Identical Paper and Computer Readable Copy

Accompanying Application Parts

8. ☐ Assignment Papers (cover sheet & documents)
9. ☐ 37 CFR 3.73(b) Statement (when there is an assignee)
10. ☐ English Translation Document (if applicable)
11. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement/PTO-1449 ☐ Copies of IDS Citations
12. ☐ Preliminary Amendment
13. ☒ Acknowledgment postcard
14. ☐ Certificate of Mailing
- ☐ First Class ☒ Express Mail (Specify Label No.): EL682143659US

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Docket No.
ZAS-10204/03

Total Pages in this Submission
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Accompanying Application Parts (Continued)

15. ☐ Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) *(if foreign priority is claimed)*
16. ☐ Small Entity Statement(s) - Specify Number of Statements Submitted: _____
17. ☐ Additional Enclosures *(please identify below)*:

Request That Application Not Be Published Pursuant To 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)

18. ☐ Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2), Applicant hereby requests that this patent application not be published pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(1). Applicant hereby certifies that the invention disclosed in this application has not and will not be the subject of an application filed in another country, or under a multilateral international agreement, that requires publication of applications 18 months after filing of the application.

Warning

An applicant who makes a request not to publish, but who subsequently files in a foreign country or under a multilateral international agreement specified in 35 U.S.C. 122(b)(2)(B)(i), must notify the Director of such filing not later than 45 days after the date of the filing of such foreign or international application. A failure of the applicant to provide such notice within the prescribed period shall result in the application being regarded as abandoned, unless it is shown to the satisfaction of the Director that the delay in submitting the notice was unintentional.

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Fee Calculation and Transmittal

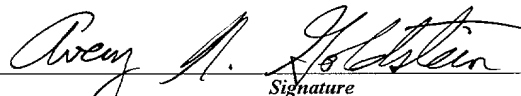
CLAIMS AS FILED

For	#Filed	#Allowed	#Extra	Rate	Fee
Total Claims	9	- 20 =	0	x \$9.00	\$0.00
Indep. Claims	4	- 3 =	1	x \$40.00	\$40.00
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable) <input type="checkbox"/>					\$0.00
BASIC FEE					\$355.00
OTHER FEE (specify purpose) _____					\$0.00
TOTAL FILING FEE					\$395.00

- ☒ A check in the amount of **\$395.00** to cover the filing fee is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. **07-1180** as described below. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.
- ☐ Charge the amount of _____ as filing fee.
- ☒ Credit any overpayment.
- ☒ Charge any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.16 and 1.17.
- ☐ Charge the issue fee set in 37 C.F.R. 1.18 at the mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.311(b).

Dated:

23 October 2000


Signature

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ZAS-10204/03
01017gs

METHOD FOR VERIFYING THE IDENTITY OF A PASSENGER

Related Applications

This application is a continuation-in-part of application 09/016,099
filed January 30, 1998, which claims priority of U.S. provisional application
5 60/060,187 filed October 1, 1997.

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to a method for verifying the identity of a
passenger, more particularly the invention involves printing a human-
cognizable image of the passenger on a conveyance ticket so as to facilitate
10 rapid and repeated security verification.

Background of the Invention

Concerns over the ever-increasing sophistication of terrorism and drug
trafficking have prompted transportation networks to utilize increased security
procedures, in order to keep pace. Traditional security protocols dictate
15 heightened security perimeters surrounding sensitive areas, as one approaches
those areas. For example, the sensitive area of an airport is the aircraft itself.
While runways and secure aircraft service areas are protected by a badge and
uniform system by which only authorized personnel are permitted access to
various secure areas, this system is not amenable to controlling aircraft access
20 by passengers. Current security doctrine involves allowing access to airport
terminals to the public upon passing a metal detector screening. Upon
presenting a ticket and perhaps a form of photo-identification, a passenger is
issued a boarding pass which designates the flight particulars of the passenger.

The issuance of a boarding pass may occur on either side of the metal detection screening. The present system fails in that there are no means available to verify whether the passenger presenting a boarding pass upon gaining access to the aircraft, is in fact the passenger of record. In this way, the secure nature of the aircraft to only authorized passengers is compromised.

The weaknesses of the conventional security systems in regard to the presentation of a boarding pass by a person other than the passenger of record are not practically solved with existing methods. The addition of a passenger identification checkpoint using picture identification at the point of gateway embarkation is not feasible, owing to the time-consuming nature of a checkpoint. A checkpoint procedure under ideal conditions requires about thirty seconds per passenger and results in delays in loading the aircraft. This process is further slowed by passengers fumbling for picture identification stored in baggage, purses, wallets and the like. Thus, there exists a need for a method of verifying a passenger's identity at the time of boarding the transport that does not involve the use of a separate piece of picture identification.

Security at airports, passenger ships, train and bus stations, as well as other central transportation sites is a concern for all who utilize conveyances such as airplanes, trains and buses. Various systems are utilized to verify the identity of a passenger prior to boarding such a conveyance. For example, the identity of the passenger is typically verified at the time the ticket is purchased, at the time the boarding pass is issued or during passenger check-in. Because the identity of a passenger is not typically verified after the purchase of the

ticket or after the issuance of the boarding pass, there is an opportunity for a ticket purchased by one passenger to be utilized by another passenger. Thus, there remains a need for a simple system which will permit the verification of the identity of a passenger at the time of boarding the particular conveyance.

5

Summary of the Present Invention

The present invention satisfies this need by providing a method for verifying the identity of a passenger at the time of boarding. The method includes the steps of initially verifying the identity of a passenger prior to the time of boarding. For example, the identity of the passenger may be verified at the travel agent or airline counter when the ticket is purchased and travel arrangements are made. Alternatively, the identity of the passenger may be verified upon check-in at the transportation site. Next, a photographic image of the passenger who has purchased the ticket is taken with a device capable of generating and outputting an electronic image. The photographic image is taken in a manner that prevents the passenger from changing places with another person following identity verification. A variety of digital cameras are available which enable an electronic image to be taken of an individual and which output an electronic image. The image is stored in a retrievable computer database. Illustratively, devices capable of generating an electronic image include charged coupled device (CCD) arrays and video analog camera/video frame grabber systems. It is appreciated that a relatively low quality image is sufficient for operation of the instant invention. For instance a 256 gray scale image renders comparison possible without consuming undue

computer storage space. Higher quality images including color are also operative herein. In an alternate embodiment, a machine readable data series is encoded on the boarding pass as a bar code or magnetic strip. Upon reading and communication of the data series of a linked computer database, a human-cognizable passenger image appears on a computer display.

Brief Description of the Drawing

Figure 1 depicts an embodiment of a conveyance ticket of the instant invention; and

Figure 2 depicts a flowchart of operative steps of an embodiment of the instant invention for verifying the identity of a passenger through the printing of a human-cognizable image on a boarding pass.

Detailed Description of the Invention

The instant invention is discussed herein in reference to passenger aircraft transportation, not as a means of limitation, but rather is intended to be exemplary of the invention utility. One skilled in the art will readily appreciate the applicability of the instant invention to passenger identification in the transportation contexts illustratively including: cruise ships, ski-lifts, rail- and bus-lines.

Upon purchase of a conveyance ticket or at the time travel arrangements are made, the identity of the passenger is verified and an electronic image of the purchasing passenger is taken, with a device capable of generating an electronic image. Alternatively, the passenger identity is verified upon check in at the transportation site. Illustratively, devices capable of

generating an electronic image 23 of Figure 2 include charged coupled device (CCD) arrays and video analog camera/video frame grabber systems.

The electronic image is input to a printer which prints a human-cognizable image of the passenger 24 onto a boarding pass 10 which is depicted in Figure 1. Any dissimilarity between the person requesting a boarding pass and the passenger of record thus becomes obvious to the issuing agent by visual comparison of the printed image 2 and the person requesting the pass. Upon a passenger presenting a conveyance ticket, a boarding pass of the instant invention is then issued. Owing to relatively low quality of the image 2, such as a 256 gray scale image, the printing of the human-cognizable image does not significantly decrease the speed at which an agent distributes passes. It is appreciated that a higher quality image in terms of gray scale tones or color is also operative herein. In printing a human-cognizable image onto a boarding pass, it is recognized that the ink is non-smudgeable to prevent obscuring the image through handling.

In an alternate embodiment, the human-cognizable passenger image is printed with an ink color, or alternatively a background color, that corresponds to a specific departure. Thus, an additional security mechanism is provided to assure that an individual passenger is boarding the correct departing aircraft. With a variety of ink colors and patterns, aircraft personnel are able to discern whether a given passenger is attempting to board their designated transport. The direct printing of a human-cognizable image onto a boarding pass thereby affords heretofore unavailable security measures. The passenger image is

stored electronically within a computer storage. Preferably, the image is stored in any conventional image storage format within a central database.

The association of passenger image data within the central database and passenger travel data affords a transport agent the ability to verify passenger identity at the time of boarding independent of an actual boarding pass. Thus, a passenger appearing for transport departure absent a boarding pass and identification is granted transport access on the basis of accessing central database stored image and travel data. The present invention also affords advantages in the event of a catastrophic accident in speeding up the identification of dead and injured passengers. Preferably, the information on the travel itinerary 4 of the passenger is also printed onto the boarding pass at this time. It is further appreciated that a conveyance ticket itself is amenable to use as a substrate for the printing of a human-cognizable image of the instant invention, especially in instances where a boarding pass separate from the ticket is not issued.

An additional human-cognizable image 6 may be printed on the boarding pass, thus enabling an image to be printed on passes having several separable portions. The retention of a portion of the pass having the passenger's image thereon optionally allows for additional verification stages following boarding.

The boarding pass substrate 12 is generally composed of a semi-rigid rectilinear portion of paper or cardboard. Preferably, the substrate 12 has a perforation line 14 transecting the substrate. The substrate being printed with a

blank conveyance form (not shown). The form is formatted to accept individualized travel itinerary details 4 of the passenger within blank sections thereof. The individualized travel datum illustratively including: passenger name, passenger destination, transport designation, departure time, arrival time, 5 seat assignment, travel class, transport tariff and the like. In particular to aircraft transport the details may include flight number and meal selection information. A portion of the blank form being open for the printing of the human-cognizable image of the passenger.

The passenger then proceeds to the boarding site with the boarding 10 pass. At the time of boarding, or upon arrival at the boarding site, the human-cognizable image on the boarding pass is compared with the passenger presenting the boarding pass 25 to ensure that the passenger who purchased the ticket is the same passenger who is boarding the conveyance.

The security of the transport is enhanced by passenger verification 15 occurring at the time of boarding. The identity verification method of the instant invention is considerably quicker than that using picture identification because the verifying agent merely glances at the face of the passenger and their presented boarding pass.

In a preferred embodiment, the electronic image of the passenger is 20 associated with the travel arrangements of the passenger 26 and stored in a centralized database 27. The database storage of a passenger image with travel arrangements provides for subsequent security monitoring 28 and for the tracking of criminal suspects traveling with counterfeit identification.

Furthermore, image data coupled with travel itinerary data is optionally utilized outside of a security setting to provide demographic passenger information, for targeting transport promotional offers, and verification of non-transference of special fares and benefits extended to particular passengers.

5 In an alternative embodiment, the human-cognizable electronic image, and other individualized travel details, illustratively including: passenger name, passenger destination, departure time, arrival time, seat assignment, travel class, transport tariff, et al., are electronically associated to a unique alphanumeric code, printable in alphanumeric and in bar code format.

10 All pertinent text-based individualized travel details then are printed upon the boarding pass, along with the unique alphanumeric code, in alphanumeric and bar code format. Upon boarding, or at any other prior or subsequent security checkpoint, the bar code is read with a bar code scanner, which then causes the individualized travel details to be referenced, and the
15 human-cognizable digital image to be displayed upon a video screen interfaced with the bar code scanner at the security checkpoint. This image is then compared with the individual presenting the boarding pass.

 The unique alphanumeric code also is provided in alphanumeric format to enable manual entry of the code in the event of difficulty reading the printed
20 bar code. It is appreciated that the alphanumeric and bar code formatted information is optionally printed in duplicate on separable portions of the boarding pass.

In an alternate embodiment, all pertinent text based individual travel details then are printed upon the boarding pass along with a machine readable data series in the form of a magnetic strip. The magnetic strip encoding the unique alphanumeric code. Upon boarding, or at any other prior or subsequent security checkpoint, the magnetic strip is passed through a machine reader thereby causing the individualized travel details to be referenced and the human-cognizable digital image of the passenger to be displayed on a video display interfaced with the magnetic strip reader at the security checkpoint. The video display image is then compared with the individual presenting the boarding pass.

In still another embodiment, the camera taking the image of the passenger may directly apply the image to the boarding pass by using either photosensitive material in at least a portion of the boarding pass in a Polaroid-type system or by directly transferring the electronic image created by a digital camera to the boarding pass.

One skilled in the art will readily appreciate that the present invention is well adapted to carry out the objects and provide the applications mentioned, as well as those inherent therein. Modifications and variations within the spirit of the invention will occur to those skilled in the art. Such modifications are also intended to fall within the scope of the appended claims.

What is claimed is:

Claims

1 1. A process for encoding a boarding pass with an image of a
2 passenger to facilitate identify verification, comprising the steps of:
3 verifying the identity of the passenger prior to the boarding and at a
4 location beyond a security perimeter;
5 taking an electronic image of the passenger with a camera capable of
6 generating a computer-storage image output; and
7 printing a human-cognizable image of the passenger directly onto said
8 boarding pass.

1 2. The process of claim 1 further comprising the step of:
2 associating said computer-storable image output with an individualized
3 travel datum of the passenger.

1 3. The method of claim 1 wherein printing said human-cognizable
2 image onto said boarding pass occurs with an ink color associated with a
3 particular transport departure.

1 4. The process of claim 1 wherein said electronic image is stored
2 in a centralized database.

1 5. The process of claim 1 wherein printing said human-cognizable
2 image occurs with a non-smudgeable ink.

1 6. The process of claim 5 wherein said human-cognizable image
2 appears on a video display as retrieved from said centralized database upon
3 entry of an individualized travel datum of the passenger.

1 7. A travel boarding pass system for verifying the identity of a
2 bearer, comprising:

3 a self-supporting boarding pass having a human-cognizable image of
4 the bearer printed thereon, the human-cognizable image being printed in an ink
5 color associated with a transport departure of the bearer.

1 8. A travel boarding pass system for verifying the identity of the
2 bearer, comprising:

3 a self-supporting boarding pass having a machine readable data series
4 selected from the group consisting of: bar code and magnetic strip encoding an
5 alphanumeric code;

6 a computer database storing a bearer image associated with the
7 reference number; and

8 a video display coupled to said computer database and a machine data
9 reader adapted to read the data series, such that upon reading the data series a
10 human-cognizable bearer image is displayed on said video display.

1 9. A process for encoding a boarding pass with an image of a
2 passenger to facilitate identify verification, comprising the steps of:

3 verifying the identity of the passenger prior to the boarding;

4 taking an electronic image of the passenger with a camera capable of

5 generating a computer-storable image output;

6 encoding a machine readable data series selected from the group

7 consisting of: bar code and magnetic strip onto a boarding pass, said data

8 series referencing said computer-storable image output within a computer;

9 reading the data series to said computer database;

10 recalling a human-cognizable image of the passenger from said

11 computer-storable image output, said computer-storable image output

12 referenced to said data series with said computer database;

13 displaying said human-cognizable image on a video display interfaced

14 with said computer database; and

15 comparing the human-cognizable image on said video display with the

16 passenger presenting said boarding pass at the time of boarding.

Abstract

A conveyance boarding pass includes a human-cognizable image of a passenger as well as the travel itinerary details. The human-cognizable image is collected using a device capable of generating an electronic image at a time
5 when the identification of the passenger is verified. Upon presenting the boarding pass the identity of the bearer is checked against the human-cognizable image on the boarding pass to maintain the security of the transport system. The electronic image optionally is stored in a computer database in combination with the travel itinerary details for further security and other uses.

FIG - 1

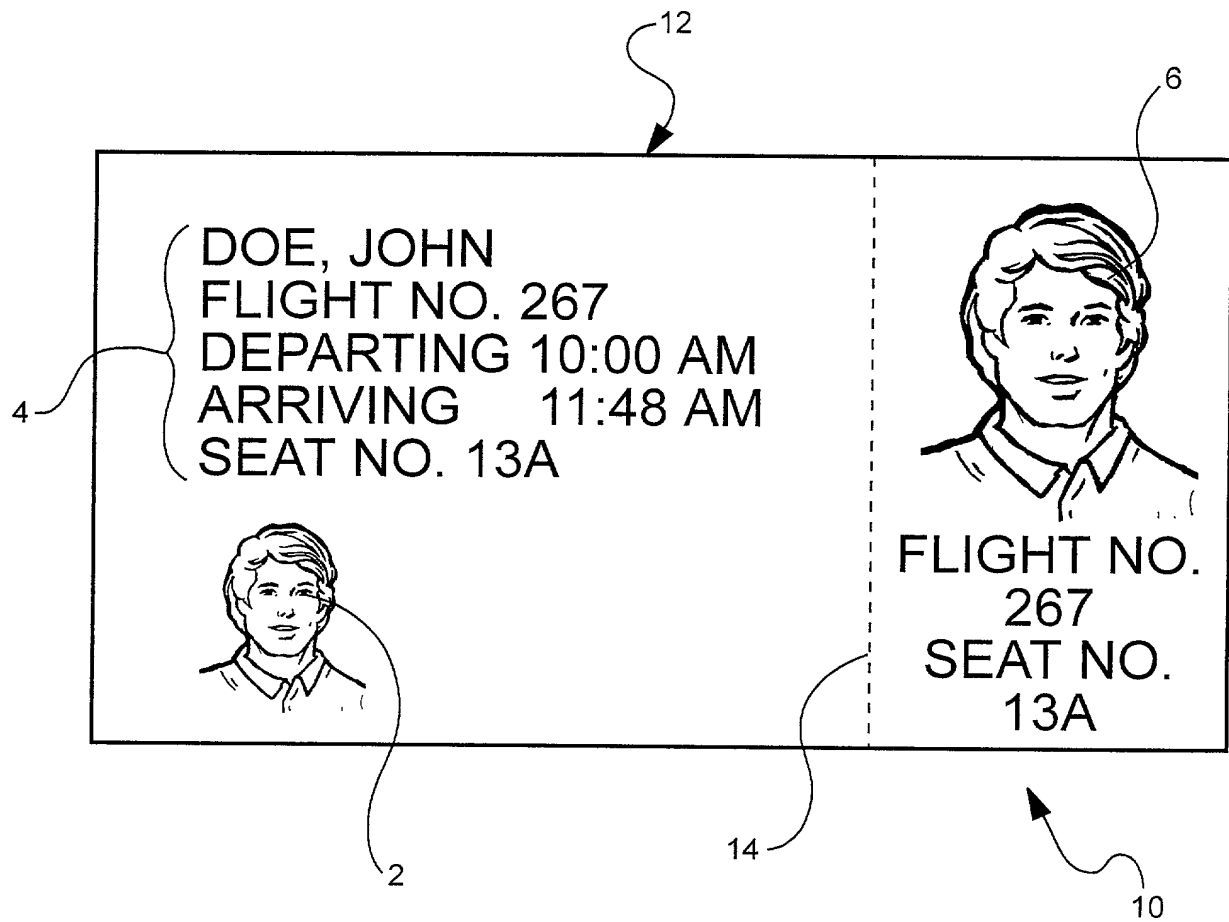
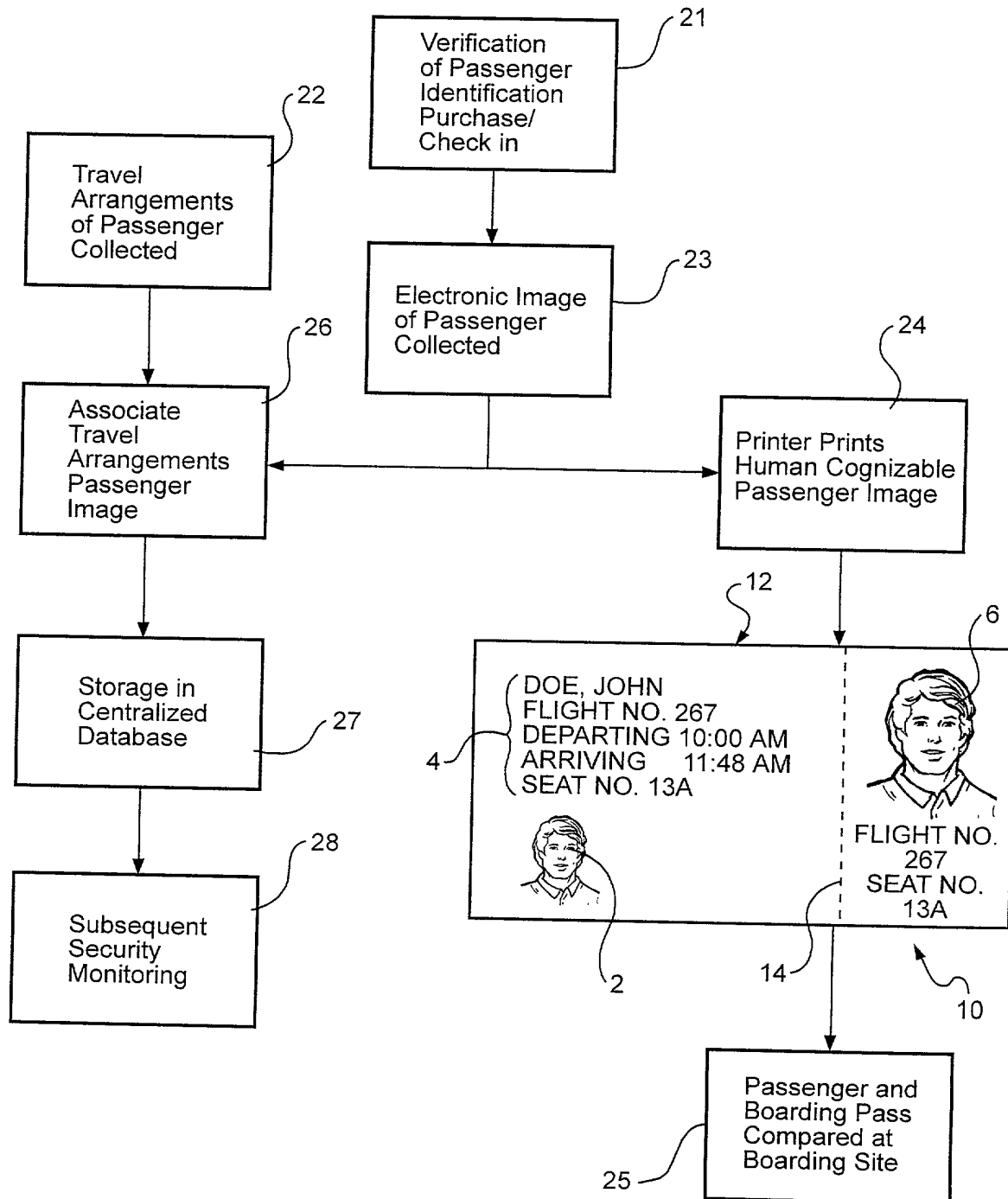


FIG - 2



Docket No.
ZAS-10204/03

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

English Language Declaration

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated below next to my name,

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

METHOD FOR VERIFYING THE IDENTITY OF A PASSENGER

the specification of which

(check one)

☒ is attached hereto.

☐ was filed on _____ as United States Application No. or PCT International Application Number _____ and was amended on _____ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(a)-(d) or Section 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or Section 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Prior Foreign Application(s)			Priority Not Claimed
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>
_____ (Number)	_____ (Country)	_____ (Day/Month/Year Filed)	<input type="checkbox"/>

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U.S.C. Section 119(e) of any United States provisional

60/060,817

(Application Serial No.)

October 1, 1997

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

I hereby claim the benefit under 35 U. S. C. Section 120 of any United States application(s), or Section 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose to the United States Patent and Trademark Office all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, C. F. R., Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of this application:

09/016,099

(Application Serial No.)

January 30, 1998

(Filing Date)

pending

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

(Application Serial No.)

(Filing Date)

(Status)
(patented, pending, abandoned)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

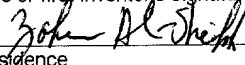
POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith. *(list name and registration number)*

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